

Message Text

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CINCPACREP PASS HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO ACTION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TQ, ECON

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ASSISTANCE TO TTPI

1. BELOW IS THE REVISED TEXT OF A PAPER APPROVED JAN. 27, 1978 BY THE INTERAGENCY GROUP IN MICRONESIA.
2. PLEASE PASS TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO HAS RECEIVED THE DRAFT PAPERS CITED IN PARA 1 OF THIS PAPER FROM THE INTERIOR DEPT.
3. QUOTE: US POLICY TOWARDS THIRD COUNTRY ASSISTANCE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

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IN THE COMMENTS ON THE PAPERS WE CIRCULATED ON THIS SUBJECT, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT OUR PRESENT POLICY, WHICH PREVENTS THIRD COUNTRY DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY, SHOULD BE ALTERED, SO AS AT LEAST TO ALLOW LIMITED THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS WERE SUGGESTED AS NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF THE NEW POLICY, INCLUDING:

(A) THE USG SHOULD RETAIN FULL CONTROL OVER FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE TTPI BY EXERCISING APPROVAL AUTHORITY OVER EACH PROPOSAL. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO KEEP OUT GOVERNMENTS WHICH WE MAY NOT WISH TO SEE INVOLVED IN THE REGION.

(B) THIRD COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT WHICH IS LIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE POSITION OF ANY PARTY TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED."

(C) A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE GRADUAL AND ON A STEP BY STEP BASIS SO THAT ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE IF EXPERIENCE PROVES THEM NECESSARY.

THERE HAS, OF COURSE, ALREADY BEEN SOME THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE TTPI. THE JAPANESE PROVIDED DIRECT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AS A RESULT OF THE WAR CLAIMS AGREEMENT. MORE RECENTLY, TECHNICAL MISSIONS FROM JAPAN HAVE VISITED MICRONESIA AT OUR REQUEST AND THERE IS PRESENTLY A JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RICE EXPERT WORKING IN PONAPE. THUS, THERE EXISTS A PRECEDENT FOR PERMITTING FURTHER GOJ INVOLVEMENT WHILE OBSERVING ALL THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED ABOVE.

EMBASSY TOKYO INDICATES THAT ANY ADDITIONAL
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ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WOULD BE VERY LIMITED, ESPECIALLY AS LONG AS THE POST-TRUSTEESHIP STATUS OF MICRONESIA REMAINS UNCLEAR. THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO COORDINATE ALL OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MICRONESIA WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TOKYO AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THEM TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

IT IS LIKELY THAT IF WE ALTER OUR POLICY AS ABOVE, WE WILL RECEIVE FROM THE MICRONESIANS REQUESTS TO APPROVE ASSISTANCE TO THE TTPI FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. WE MIGHT, OF COURSE, DECIDE TO TURN DOWN SUCH REQUESTS.

WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT WE WILL RECEIVE SOME CRITICISM SHOULD WE LIMIT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TO PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE U.S., THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE CRITICISM SHOULD CAUSE US ANY SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS BECAUSE: (A) THERE ARE SIMPLY NO INDICATIONS THAT ANY FOREIGN POWERS (INCLUDING JAPAN) ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING LARGE-SCALE ASSISTANCE TO THE TTPI, AND (B) WE SUPPLY A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF USG ASSISTANCE AT PRESENT.

CONCLUSION: THE UNITED STATES IS IN A POSITION TO PERMIT GRANT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD AID ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUT IS STILL POLITICALLY NEUTRAL AND COMPATIBLE WITH OUR ROLE AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.

RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT THE USG ALTER ITS POLICY AND ALLOW THIRD GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:

(A) THE USG RETAINS FINAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS;

(B) THAT, IN EACH CASE, THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT
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INVOLVED INFORM THE USG OF ITS DESIRE TO CARRY OUT A PROPOSAL;

(C) THAT ANY ASSISTANCE BE MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND THAT IT BE ADMINISTERED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

2. THAT THE USG, THROUGH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, INFORM THE MICRONESIANS OF OUR NEW POLICY AND ITS ATTENDANT CONDITIONS. HE SHOULD ALSO INFORM THEM TO THAT ANY MICRONESIAN INVESTMENT MISSIONS WHICH ARE DISPATCHED TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK ASSISTANCE MUST COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE APPROPRIATE U.S. EMBASSY.

3. THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE INFORM THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHER FRIENDLY POWERS OF THE ALTERATION IN OUR POLICY AND ITS CONDITIONS AND EXPRESS OUR EXPECTATION THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH US WITH RESPECT TO TRUST TERRITORY AFFAIRS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS ASAP. WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT AND TO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE US EMBASSIES OF THIS CHANGE IN POLICY. VANCE

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